



Mark A. Hackel
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Macomb County Animal Control

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September 7, 2016

House Local Government Committee
Anderson House Office Building
Post Office Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Committee Members of the House Local Government Committee:

As Chief of Macomb County Animal Control, I write to you today to ask that you vote YES in support of Senate Bill 239.

We are able to enjoy the benefits of living with dogs (the human-canine bond) when we create safe, humane communities that are good for people and good for pets. Effective laws support and promote human-canine bonds by clearly describing the standards of Responsible Pet Ownership practices expected by the community from all dog owners. They also outline the dog owner behaviors that the community will not tolerate.

Ineffective laws have the opposite effect. When communities enact (or retain) ineffective laws, there can be serious and unconsidered consequences for individual community members – and long-term negative impacts on the social and fiscal health of the community. Breed specific legislation, which SB 239 will eliminate, is ineffective legislation that violates the property rights of pet owners.

The goal of pet ownership laws should be to raise the standards of pet ownership from problematic to acceptable. Doing so protects the interests of people with pets, people without pets and the animals.

Breed specific legislation makes animal control officers the enemies of the community by forcing them to seize and destroy well-behaved family pets, yet a positive relationship between animal control and the community is critical to improving public safety and responsible pet ownership.

Every citizen deserves to be protected from ALL reckless dog owners, not just reckless owners with the targeted breeds of dogs. Everyone needs to be held equally accountable. SB 239 will help us achieve that.

Breed specific legislation leads to increases in owner surrenders, creating more work for animal shelters, more euthanasia, and more financial resources required to care for/euthanize surrendered dogs. It hinders adoptions and increases length of stay by restricting which dogs can be placed, limiting the potential pool of adopters, and generating fear of all shelter dogs. This consequence of breed specific legislation is incredibly detrimental to our public shelters.

Breed specific legislation singles out certain bite victims for special treatment and protection. It minimizes dog bite victims who are injured by dogs that are not included in the targeted breeds. All victims of dog bites deserve equal protection under the law.

Please vote in support of Senate Bill 239. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chris Randazzo'.

Chief Randazzo